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In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis shake hands, in Odesa, Ukraine, Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Associated Press
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Few Americans want U.S. more involved in current wars in Ukraine and Gaza, AP-NORC poll finds

From Front

By **FARNOUSH AMIRI** and **LINLEY SANDERS**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the U.S. navigates involvement in the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, few Americans want the country to take a more active role in solving the world's problems, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. While an American role as the "world's policeman" has become an increasingly contentious partisan issue, a majority of both Democrats and Republicans agree that the U.S. should not get more involved than it currently is in the ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas.

The poll shows that 4 in 10 U.S. adults want America to broadly take a "less active" role in solving global conflicts. Only about one-quarter think the U.S. should take a more active role, and about one-third say its current role is about right.

The findings underscore the difficult dynamics that both President Joe Biden and the likely Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump, face in the leadup to next November's election. Significant swaths of the electorate are frustrated by the searing images of the growing humanitarian crisis in the five month war in Gaza and the hefty costs already incurred by the U.S. in helping Ukraine fend off Russia's invasion.

The Biden administration has become increasingly blunt in recent days in pressing Israel and Hamas to come to terms for a cease-fire that would last at least six weeks and would facilitate the release of dozens of hostages that were taken captive by militants when Hamas launched its Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

Just two decades ago, GOP leaders were calling for Americans to embrace the "ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world." Now, while few U.S. adults on either side of the aisle want



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a gathering of Jewish leaders at the Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

the nation to take a more active position, Republicans, at 53%, are roughly twice as likely as Democrats, at 25%, to say the country should have less active involvement abroad. About half (52%) of Democrats say the U.S.'s current position is "about right." Many Republicans cite America's bloody and futile history of intervention in countries like Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I feel like there's a lot of conflicts that we've been involved in that don't ever have any positive results," Kurt Bunde, a Republican from Idaho, told AP. "We might have good intentions. We might feel obligated to protect our allies' interests, but the results speak for themselves."

Where the U.S. should be focusing its international military resources is also a subject of debate, with Republicans and Democrats disagreeing over whether the nation should be taking a more active role in the war between Ukraine and Russia or the war between Israel and Hamas.

Among U.S. adults overall,

there isn't much appetite for a more active role in either conflict: Only about 2 in 10 U.S. adults say the U.S. should be taking a more active role in each war. For each, about 4 in 10 say the current role is about right, and 36% say the U.S. needs to take a step back.

But Republicans and independents are more likely than Democrats to say that the U.S. should dial down its support for Ukraine. About half of Republicans and independents want the U.S. to take a less active role in the war between Ukraine and Russia, compared to only 18% of Democrats.

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine more than two years ago, the U.S. has sent \$111 billion in weapons, equipment, humanitarian assistance and other aid to Ukraine. A \$95 billion package of aid is now languishing in Congress due to Republican opposition as Ukrainian soldiers begin to ration ammunition.

"America is spread thin like everywhere, and we need to take care of our own first,"

Matt Wood, a Republican from Kentucky, said in an interview. "Then, if we can, if we have the resources available, then we can help other countries."

Half of Democrats say the U.S.'s current role in the Russia-Ukraine war is about right, and 30% want a more active role. Across the board, Democrats are more likely to favor U.S. intervention in Ukraine: Nearly 6 in 10 think it's very or extremely important for the U.S. to provide aid to Ukraine's military to fight Russia or negotiate a permanent cease-fire between Russia and Ukraine, while only 24% of Republicans prioritize more military aid and 41% of Republicans say it's extremely or very important for the U.S. to help broker a permanent cease-fire.

"I think that we have to take some responsibility just because of the effect of our power and the amount of wealth we have," Christina Taylor, a Maryland Democrat, said. "I think for us to decrease our responsibilities or to decrease our interest in other countries is against

the kind of country we are." Even though aid to Israel usually receives bipartisan support in Congress — and is often a priority for GOP politicians — about 4 in 10 Republicans think the U.S. should take a less active role in the war between Israel and Hamas.

"I really think it's none of our business because it's Israel's war," Donna Cole, a Missouri Republican, told AP. "The only role that the United States should have is to bring back any Americans who are hostages."

She added, "But we should not be putting restraints on Israel or, for that matter, restraints on the Palestinians."

About half of Democrats think the U.S.'s current role in the Israel-Hamas war is about right, while the rest are split on whether the U.S. should take a more or less active role. Independents are slightly more likely than members of either political party to say the U.S. should take a less active role, and only 11% want the U.S. to be more involved.

There are large partisan divides, too, on the kind of aid that the U.S. should provide in the Israel-Hamas war. About one-third of Republicans think it's extremely or very important for the U.S. to provide aid to Israel's military to fight Hamas, compared to 20% of Democrats. On the other hand, about 6 in 10 Democrats say it's extremely or very important for the U.S. to help negotiate a permanent cease-fire and provide humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza, while 34% of Republicans prioritize U.S. help with a cease-fire and 15% of Republicans think it's important for the U.S. to provide humanitarian aid.

Taylor, who is a nurse, said that the only active role the U.S. should be taking in the conflict in Gaza is pushing back on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government's military response.

"We're not doing enough to push the Israelis to lighten up a little bit because I think they're overstepping," Taylor said. □

Nikki Haley suspends her campaign and leaves Donald Trump as the last major Republican candidate

By STEVE PEOPLES and
MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nikki Haley suspended her presidential campaign on Wednesday after being soundly defeated across the country on Super Tuesday, leaving Donald Trump as the last remaining major candidate for the 2024 Republican nomination.

Haley didn't endorse the former president in a speech in Charleston, South Carolina. Instead, she challenged him to win the support of the moderate Republicans and independent voters who supported her.

"It is now up to Donald Trump to earn the votes of those in our party and beyond it who did not support him. And I hope he does that," she said. "At its best, politics is about bringing people into your cause, not turning them away. And our conservative cause badly needs more people."

Haley, a former South Carolina governor and U.N. ambassador, was Trump's first significant rival when she jumped into the race in February 2023. She spent the final phase of her campaign aggressively warning the GOP against embracing Trump, whom she argued was too consumed by chaos and personal grievance to defeat President Joe Biden in the general election.

Her departure clears Trump to focus solely on his likely rematch in November with Biden. The former president is on track to reach the necessary 1,215 delegates to clinch the Republican nomination later this month. Haley's defeat marks a painful, if predictable, blow to those voters, donors and Republican Party officials who opposed Trump and his fiery brand of "Make America Great Again" politics. She was especially popular among moderates and college-educated voters, constituencies that will likely play a pivotal role in the general election. It's unclear whether Trump,



Republican presidential candidate former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley speaks during a news conference, Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in Charleston, S.C.

Associated Press

who recently declared that Haley donors would be permanently banned from his movement, can ultimately unify a deeply divided party.

Haley planned to address donors on a Zoom meeting Wednesday afternoon, according to two people familiar with the plans.

Trump on Tuesday night declared that the GOP was united behind him, but in a statement shortly afterward, Haley spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas said, "Unity is not achieved by simply claiming, 'We're united.'"

"Today, in state after state, there remains a large block of Republican primary voters who are expressing deep concerns about Donald Trump," Perez-Cubas said. "That is not the unity our party needs for success. Addressing those voters' concerns will make the Republican Party and America better."

Haley has made clear she doesn't want to serve as Trump's vice president or run on a third-party ticket arranged by the group No Labels. She leaves the race with an elevated national profile that could help her in a future presidential run. Swiftly following her speech Wednesday, Trump's campaign in a fundraising email

falsely claimed that Haley had endorsed his candidacy and did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the message. Earlier this week, Haley said she no longer feels bound by a pledge that required all GOP contenders to support the party's eventual nominee in order to participate in the primary debates.

In a social media post, Trump continued to mock his former rival, while at the same time extending an invitation to "all of the Haley supporters to join the greatest movement in the history of our Nation. BIDEN IS THE ENEMY, HE IS DESTROYING OUR COUNTRY," he wrote. "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!"

On Wednesday, Biden welcomed any voters who had backed Haley, acknowledging Trump's previous rejection of her supporters. "Donald Trump made it clear he doesn't want Nikki Haley's supporters. I want to be clear: There is a place for them in my campaign," Biden said in a statement. "I know there is a lot we won't agree on. But on the fundamental issues of preserving American democracy, on standing up for the rule of law, on treating each other with decency and dignity and respect, on preserv-

ing NATO and standing up to America's adversaries, I hope and believe we can find common ground."

A group that had targeted independents and Democrats to vote for Haley over Trump in Republican primaries is now pushing those voters to back Biden in November. On Wednesday, Primary Pivot said it was "pivoting" again with a new initiative Haley Voters for Biden which might ultimately amount to basically encouraging Democrats to revert back to supporting their party's likely eventual nominee.

By staying in the campaign until now, Haley drew enough support from suburbanites and college-educated voters to highlight Trump's apparent weaknesses with those groups. In AP VoteCast surveys conducted among Republican primary and caucus voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, between 61% and 76% of Haley's supporters said they would be so dissatisfied if Trump became the GOP nominee that they wouldn't vote for him in the November general election. Voters in the early Republican head-to-head contests who said they wouldn't vote for Trump in the fall represented a small

but significant segment of the electorate: 2 in 10 Iowa voters, one-third of New Hampshire voters, and one-quarter of South Carolina voters.

Haley leaves the 2024 presidential contest having made history as the first woman to win a Republican primary contest. She beat Trump in the District of Columbia on Sunday and in Vermont on Tuesday.

She had insisted she would stay in the race through Super Tuesday and crossed the country campaigning in states holding Republican contests. Ultimately, she was unable to knock Trump off his glide path to a third straight nomination. Haley's allies note that she exceeded most of the political world's expectations by making it as far as she did.

She had initially ruled out running against Trump in 2024. But she changed her mind and ended up launching her bid three months after he did, citing among other things the country's economic troubles and the need for "generational change." Haley, 52, later called for competency tests for politicians over the age of 75 a knock on both Trump, who is 77, and Biden, who is 81.

Her candidacy was slow to attract donors and support, but she ultimately outlasted all of her other GOP rivals, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Tim Scott, her fellow South Carolinian whom she appointed to the Senate in 2012. And the money flowed in until the very end. Her campaign said it raised more than \$12 million in February alone.

She gained popularity with many Republican donors, independent voters and the "Never Trump" crowd, even though she criticized the criminal cases against him as politically motivated and pledged that, if president, she would pardon him if he were convicted in federal court. □

Panel says New York, Maryland and maybe California could offer internet gambling soon

By **WAYNE PARRY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — With Rhode Island this week becoming the seventh U.S. state to launch internet gambling, industry panelists at an online gambling conference predicted Wednesday that several additional states would join the fray in the next few years.

Speaking at the Next.io forum on internet gambling and sports betting, several mentioned New York and Maryland as likely candidates to start offering internet casino games soon.

And some noted that, despite years of difficulty crafting a deal that satisfies commercial and tribal casinos and card rooms, California is simply too big a market not to offer internet gambling.

“Some of the dream is not quite fulfilled, which creates some opportunity,” said Rob Heller, CEO of Spectrum Gaming Capital. Before Rhode Island went live with online casino games on Tuesday, only six U.S. states offered them: New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania,



David Rebeck, director of the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, speaks at a ceremony for the opening of the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City N.J on June 28, 2018.

Associated Press

Michigan and West Virginia. Nevada offers internet poker but not online casino games. Shawn Fluharty, a West Virginia state delegate and chairman of a national group of legislators from gambling states, listed New York and Maryland as the most likely states to add internet gambling soon. He was joined in that as-

essment by Brandt Iden, vice president of government affairs for Fanatics Betting and Gaming and a former Michigan state representative.

Both men acknowledged the difficulty of passing online casino legislation; Thirty-eight states plus Washington, D.C., currently offer sports betting, compared

to seven with internet casino gambling.

Part of the problem is that some lawmakers are unfamiliar with the industry, Iden said. “We talk about i-gaming, and they think we’re talking about video games,” he said.

Fluharty added he has “colleagues who struggle to silence their phones, and

we’re going to tell them gambling can be done on their phones?”

Some lawmakers fear that offering online casino games will cannibalize revenue from existing brick-and-mortar casinos, although industry executives say online gambling can complement in-person gambling. Fluharty said four casinos opened in Pennsylvania after the state began offering internet casino gambling. A study commissioned by Maryland projected that adding internet gambling would generate \$900 million in annual online betting revenue by 2029, but that it would cost brick-and-mortar casinos \$200 million. The key to wider adoption of internet gambling is playing up the tax revenue it generates, and emphasizing programs to discourage compulsive gambling and help those with a problem, panelists said. New York state senator Joseph Addabbo, one of the leading advocates of online betting in his state, recently introduced legislation to allocate at least \$6 million a year to problem gambling programs. □

New York will send National Guard to subways after a string of violent crimes

By **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**
Associated Press

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced plans Wednesday to send the National Guard to the New York City subway system to help police search passengers’ bags for weapons, following a series of high-profile crimes on city trains. Hochul, a Democrat, said she will deploy 750 members of the National Guard to the subways to assist the New York Police Department with bag searches at entrances to busy train stations.

“For people who are thinking about bringing a gun or knife on the subway, at least this creates a deterrent effect. They might be

thinking, ‘You know what, it just may just not be worth it because I listened to the mayor and I listened to the

governor and they have a lot more people who are going to be checking my bags,’” Hochul said at a



Members of the Armed Forces including the National Guard wait in the lobby of the New York City Mass Transit Authority Rail Control Center before the start of a news conference with Gov. Hochul, Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

news conference in New York City.

The move came as part of a larger effort from the governor’s office to address crime in the subway, which included a legislative proposal to ban people from trains if they are convicted of assaulting a subway passenger and the installation of cameras in conductor cabins to protect transit workers.

The deployment of the National Guard would bolster an enhanced presence of NYPD officers in the subway system. The governor said she will also send 250 state troopers and police officers for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a state agency, to help with the

bag searches.

Overall, crime has dropped in New York City since a spike during the COVID-19 pandemic, and killings are down on the subway system. But rare fatal shootings and shovings on the subway can put residents on edge. Just last week, a passenger slashed a subway conductor in the neck, delaying trains.

Police in New York have long conducted random bag checks at subway entrances, though passengers are free to refuse and leave the station, raising questions of whether the searches are an effective policing tactic in a subway system that serves over 3 million riders per day. □

Pressure grows on Israel to open more aid routes into Gaza

By TIA GOLDENBERG and
WAFAA SHURAFU
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Efforts to get desperately needed humanitarian aid to war-racked northern Gaza gained momentum Wednesday with the European Union increasing pressure for the creation of a sea route from Cyprus to Gaza and British Foreign Minister David Cameron saying that Israel's allies were losing patience.

While aid groups say all of Gaza is mired in a humanitarian crisis, the situation in the largely isolated north stands out. Many of the estimated 300,000 people still living there have been reduced to eating animal fodder to survive. The U.N. says that one in six children under the age of 2 in the north suffers from acute malnutrition.

Amid the global pressure to alleviate the crisis, two Israeli officials said Wednesday the government will begin allowing aid to move directly from its territory into northern Gaza and will also cooperate with the creation of the sea route from Cyprus.

Israel would allow 20 to 30 aid trucks to enter northern Gaza from Israel on Friday, the start of more regular deliveries via that route, one of the officials said. It will also



Palestinians carry their belongings after visiting their houses destroyed in the Israeli offensive on Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

begin doing security checks Sunday on aid in Cyprus before it's delivered via sea to Gaza, the official said.

The ship will be part of a pilot project to test the feasibility of the sea route. The aid is UAE-funded and made possible with US involvement. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the upcoming shipments with the media.

Aid groups have said it has become nearly impossible to deliver supplies within

most of Gaza because of the difficulty of coordinating with the Israeli military, the ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of public order. It is even more difficult to get aid to the north.

Aid trucks have to drive from the Rafah crossing with Egypt or the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, both on the southern edge of Gaza, through the conflict zone to reach the largely cut-off areas in the north.

Last week, an attempt by the Israeli military to facilitate the

movement of aid ended in tragedy when more than 100 Palestinians were fatally shot by Israeli forces or trampled to death in a melee.

On Wednesday, hundreds of people ran along a sea-side road on the outskirts of Gaza City to collect bags of flour and boxes of water and canned food donated by Turkey and Egypt and were part of a shipment trucked in from southern Gaza.

British Foreign Secretary David Cameron told Parliament's House of Lords that

he planned to tell visiting Israeli government minister Benny Gantz on Wednesday that Israel's allies' patience with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza was wearing "very thin."

"We've had a whole set of things we've asked the Israelis to do, but I have to report to the House that the amount of aid they got in in February was about half what they got in January," he said.

Meanwhile, European Union Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen will visit Cyprus on Friday to inspect installations at the port of Larnaca, from where aid would leave for Gaza if a sea route is established, Cypriot government spokesman Constantinos Letymbiotis said.

Concerned by the lack of access to food, the United States, Jordan and other nations have begun making air drops of aid in recent days, but aid groups say only a fraction of the needed assistance can be delivered by air. The war began with a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which Palestinian militants killed around 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages. More than 100 of them were released during a weeklong cease-fire in November. □

Associated Press

Spain puts temporary ban on Worldcoin eyeballs scans, citing concerns over privacy

By JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spain's privacy watchdog has ordered for Worldcoin, the company created by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman that scans eyeballs to make digital IDs in exchange for crypto, to cease its operations in the country for three months amid concerns over what it is doing with users' personal information.

The stated goal of Worldcoin is to give people a form of identification that could never be stolen or duplicated. It says the way it can do this is by creating a "World ID" by scanning someone's eyeballs

through "orbs" — a device that captures an image of their irises, the colored parts of the eyes.

In exchange, people who sign up get Worldcoin cryptocurrency.

Spain's Agency for Data Protection told Worldcoin's parent company Tools for Humanity Corporation on Wednesday to stop collecting personal data and keep hold of all information already collected.

The agency said in a statement that it had received various complaints against the company that range from gathering the personal information of minors to not allowing for people to withdraw their consent to

sharing personal data.

People have lined up at points where these orbs are placed in cities like Madrid and Barcelona in recent months. More than 360,000 people in Spain have signed up for Worldcoin, according to the most recent company data from November.

While Worldcoin argues that the data is used to create a unique, secure form of identification, privacy experts have concerns that the company may use the information in other ways, like personalized marketing.

That has led other countries to investigate Worldcoin's operations, including

France and Germany.

The Kenyan government has likewise suspended new sign-ups for Worldcoin

as it investigates whether people's information is being properly protected. □



An orb, a spherical iris scanning device used by Worldcoin, is shown at a co-working office in Santa Monica, Calif., on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

Associated Press

New attacks by IS-linked group in Mozambique leave over 70 children missing

By TOM GOULD and GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — A surge of new attacks by an Islamic State-affiliated group in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province has left more than 70 children missing, with fears they may have drowned in a river or been kidnapped by militants as thousands of families fled, local authorities and a group of aid agencies said. Around 30 families now seeking shelter in Nampula province to the south have asked police to help locate their children, according to a report released Wednesday by the Protection Working Group, a network of non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies.

The attacks have hit areas that had been relatively untouched since the start of the jihadist insurgency in Cabo Delgado in 2017. They may mark a new stage in a crisis that aid agencies say forced more than a million people to flee their homes during nearly seven



In this image made from video, a Mozambican soldier rides on an armored vehicle at the airport in Mocimboa da Praia, Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique, Aug. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

years of violence. Thousands were killed.

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique's northernmost province that borders Tanzania, was thrust into the international spotlight in 2020 and 2021 when insurgents were accused of carrying out mass beheadings, including of children.

The U.N.'s migration agency said nearly 100,000 people were displaced be-

tween early February and early March after Islamic State Mozambique fighters launched a new offensive from their heartland in coastal central Cabo Delgado into the south. More than 61,000 of those displaced were children, it said.

Save the Children called it the largest displacement of children in Cabo Delgado in 18 months.

"There are repeated reports of beheadings and abductions, including multiple child victims," Save the Children said.

The U.N. high commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, is in Cabo Delgado and was due to update on the situation and humanitarian response on Thursday.

A total of 72 children have now been reported missing after the recent attacks,

said Albertina Ussene, the Nampula provincial government's director of gender, children and social action, who was quoted by the Lusa news agency. Ussene told a meeting of provincial officials this week that another 29 children had been reunited with their families.

The report by the Protection Working Group said around 27 villages in southern Cabo Delgado were attacked late last month. It said children and older people were reported to have drowned while trying to escape, and some men were believed to have been kidnapped.

The report said an unconfirmed number of people were killed and 500 buildings, including houses, churches and markets, were destroyed.

The U.N. children's agency said the displacement of tens of thousands more people risks exacerbating cholera outbreaks due to overcrowding and the lack of clean water and sanitary facilities in displacement sites. □

Over 8,500 migrants died worldwide last year, a record since the UN started counting in 2014



A dinghy lies on the shore after a shipwreck where two migrants were killed and eight were rescued, in Thermi, on the northeastern Aegean Sea island of Lesbos, Greece, on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA **(AP)** — A total of 8,565 migrants died on land and sea routes worldwide

last year, the U.N. migration agency said Wednesday, a record high since it began counting deaths a decade ago.

The International Organization for Migration said the biggest increase in deaths last year was on the treacherous Mediterranean Sea crossing, to 3,129 from 2,411 in 2022.

However, that was well below the record 5,136 deaths recorded on the Mediterranean in 2016 as huge numbers of Syrians, Afghans and others fled conflicts toward Europe.

IOM said the total number of deaths among migrants in 2023 was nearly 20% more than the previous year.

It said most of the deaths last year, about 3,700, came from drowning. The count also includes migrants who vanished often while trying to cross by sea and are presumed dead

even if their bodies were not found.

The Geneva-based migration agency cautioned that the figures likely underestimate the real toll, and factors such as improved data collection methods play a part in its calculations.

"Every single one of them is a terrible human tragedy that reverberates through families and communities for years to come," IOM Deputy Director General Ugochi Daniels said in a statement.

Overall, the biggest jump in deaths in recent years was in Asia, where 2,138 migrants died last year, 68 more than in 2022. That was primarily because of increased deaths among Afghans fleeing to places

like neighboring Iran and among Rohingya refugees on maritime routes, IOM spokesperson Jorge Galindo said in an email.

IOM said a record number of deaths also occurred in Africa last year 1,866 mostly in the Sahara Desert and along the sea route to the Canary Islands.

The agency cited difficulties in data collection in remote areas, such as in the dangerous Darien Gap in Panama, where many migrants pass from South America on their way north. IOM's Missing Migrants project, which tallies the figures, was set up in 2014 after a surge in deaths in the Mediterranean and an influx of migrants on the Italian island of Lampedusa off Tunisia. □

Brief history of the Status Aparte



(Oranjestad)—In celebration of the National Hymn and Flag Day on March 18th, for the next two weeks Aruba Today will be dedicating some of its pages to the history and development of the Aruban independence from the former Netherlands Antilles. For this issue, we will share a brief history of the Status Aparte (latin: separate state), which was achieved in 1986 and is considered as the Aruban Independence Day.

The call for independence from Aruba first emerged in the 1930s. At the time, the desire for more autonomy did not necessarily mean separation from the Dutch Kingdom, but rather a call to be less submissive to the central power in Curacao, through which the Dutch exercised control on the western Dutch Antilles. In the 40s, the separatist movement was led by politician J.H.A. "Henny" Eman, better known as "Shon A."

Between September 1947 and January 1948, 2,147 Arubans signed a petition in which they asked Queen Wilhelmina to be financially, economically, administratively and governmentally separate from Curacao. On March 18th, 1948, Shon A's son, C.A. "Albert" Eman submitted the petition during the Round Table Conference and to the Queen.

It wasn't until the late 60s—after the passing of Albert as leader of the AVP party which strived, yet failed multiple times, to achieve true independence, did a new party leader turn the page on the fight for Status Aparte. Gilberto Francois "Betico" Croes, a former member of AVP, established his own party Movimiento Electoral Arubano (MEP) and would later become the island's "liberator", as he achieved what his predecessors could not.

A nationalist, Betico put the Aruban identity and folklore central in his campaign. With this, he emphasized the Latin-American and Indigenous identity on the island, as well as the Aruban "cunuceros" (farmers), contrasting this with the Afro-Caribbean character of Curacao and the old elite families on the island. For Betico's nationalist movement, the emancipation was not only political and administrative, but also ethnic. At the time, this ideal proved to be highly successful, and MEP had already become the biggest party on Aruba by 1973.

Between 1975-1985, MEP held more than half of the seats in the Island Council, and the party participated in various governments. After years of back and forth—which at one point even resulted in a deadly conflict, The Netherlands agreed in 1985 to grant Aruba its Status Aparte and for the island to be recognized as a separate country within the Dutch Kingdom, this taking effect on January 1986. However, The Netherlands had its own condition with which Aruba



had to comply; independence could only be accepted on the island in 1996. For the Dutch, this was a way to prevent Curacao and Bonaire from following in the footsteps of Aruba and essentially dissolving the Netherlands Antilles. But for Betico and the Aruban community, this was the win they fought for.

The fight for Status Aparte was the beginning of the Aruban nationalism and pride. On March 18th, 1976, 30 years after Albert Eman submitted the first petition for autonomy, Aruba adopted its official flag and hymn "Aruba Dushi Tera" (Aruba Sweet Land). So even though we call March 18th our National Hymn and Flag Day, what we celebrate in essence is the freedom for which our founding fathers fought tirelessly. □

Source: Aruba y su status aparte : logro di pasado, reto pa futuro, 1986-2001 (Aruba and its Status Apart: achievements of the past, challenge for the future, 1986-2001).

Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and



descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □



Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want some-



thing special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are



set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at:

info@papillonaruba.com

or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400

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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today



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and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitor Betty.



She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is Tranquility. We have been coming to Aruba for over 40 years & consider it our 2nd home. We stay approximately 6 weeks each year at the Divi Phoenix. The Aruban residents are so welcoming,

the restaurants are great, the weather is perfect & we ALWAYS have so much fun."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually



called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.



Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

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likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitors Kerry and Amy Brunner from upstate New York, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is...our home away from home."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!☐



Episode CVII - 108 - One good day in Curaçao

It was during the year of 1763 that the Fiscal of Noord Miguel Alvarez, sailed a lot between the islands and the mainland. During one of his trips to Curacao, approaching the slave place, he saw one man who was in dire healthy conditions. Alvarez had convinced the slave master to let the slave go for a few ounces of gold, since he is not going to make it in those conditions.

The aruban Fiscal took him over to a friend's house in Willemstad-Curacao. Here they took care of him for to be fit to sail over to Aruba. Upon arriving in Aruba, Fiscal Alvarez, a native Aruban converted to chatolism, told his fellow men that he had bought this mans freedom since he was impressed and overwhelmed with compasion when he say the way this man preformed the sign of the holy cross, the same way we do it he said. His name was Crisostomo and he was free again in the Aruba town of Noord. Over



time, he learned some Spanish and was able to tell something about his life. Crisostomo was originally from Algeria in North Africa. His parents died when he was very young and that they were Christians, received a Catholic education and that he has been married to a good woman named Elena Petronilia and together lived happily in Algeria for 14 years. They had five children but four of them died when they were very young and only one Anastacio was alive when tragedy struck. One sad day, Arabs slave traders came to his small town. They broke into his house. They destroyed everything in it and put them in chains.

Many times the sad memories made Crisostomo cry. Crisostomo said, "They treated us worse than animals, women and children separated from men. It could count more than two hundred people, captives, merchants, and hundreds of camels. We arrived on the outskirts of the port city

of Oran at dusk and boarded a ship full of people ready to be sent to the new continent. Many people died during the long march ". Crisostomo was shipped to Curacao. Crisostomo's story reached Catholic priest Pedro Ramirez who lived in Caracas and occasionally visited Aruba. Since he understood some French, he could figure out where or what exactly happened to Crisostomo's son and wife. The following year Father Pedro Ramirez wrote a letter to Crisostomo, telling him that in Caracas he had found his son Anastacio and that he would send him by ship to Aruba so that they could

reunite again with his father. Anastacio had arrived to La Guajira where the priest Francisco bought his freedom and gave him a place to live in the monastery in Caracas. A year after Crisostomo and his son Anastacio were living in Aruba a ship sailing out of Maracaibo en route to the Dominican Republic, ran aground in the South Western part of the island. People of Noord came over to give assistance. Among the passengers was certain Mr. Morales, a Colombian gentleman, together with his family and two servants. They all were taken to the town of Noord. One of the servants who were traveling with the Mr. Morales and family was Crisostomo's wife and Anastacio's mother Helena Petronilia.



To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp 297 592 2702 to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.☐



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



“Take your car off the beaten track to meet our monuments and their stories”

ORANJESTAD — The mix of cultures in Aruba is very visible in its architecture as -like in all cultures-, monuments reflect your history and your people. If you take the chance to leave the beach for a little while and take your car off the beaten track you will be surprised what you see. Anne Witsenburg is director of the Monument Fund Aruba (SMFA) and points out precisely why a monumental trip should not lack in your vacation's itinerary.

The fund owns 15 monuments, out of the 36 protected monuments in the island. “But there are over 300 more monuments on the list to be protected and of course we dream to see that become reality as soon as possible.” The international guidelines that apply for monuments decide whether it will be a protected monument or not. “The building or object needs to be at least 50 years old, a special value in architecture or to history or to the people of Aruba is required and there has to be a certain uniqueness. If it was changed too much throughout time or there are already any of the same kind it is a no go.”

Useless islands

There is a difference between the islands when it comes to monuments, as

Witsenburg explains. “That goes back to their history. Curacao used to be a very wealthy island where many -mainly Dutch- merchants lived close together and that is the reason you find this typical colonial Dutch style buildings packed in certain areas nowadays. They have more than 20 years of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage. Than scattered around the rest of the island you will see the smaller country houses.” Aruba and Bonaire were called the useless islands in the colonial time, so any Indian willing to live here was given a small piece of land to build his home. “That is the reason you find all these typical small houses scattered around the island. We actually have the same amount of monuments as Curacao though way smaller.”

Magic local touch

Some of the monuments owned by the Monument Fund Aruba are the light house, town hall, water tanks in both Oranjestad and San Nicolas. “We are wealthy in different styled monuments and my suggestion is to discover this world outside of the tourist zone. The book Monumental Guide comes in handy as there are three maps inside that guide you to the

monuments and tell you about them. But there are also possibilities to have your personal people guide. And the best is that I can almost guarantee you the magic of the local touch when you bump into an authentic cunucu house (country house) and talk to the owners. They will proudly share their family history with you.”

Outside inspiration

The Monument Fund acquires or buys monuments and restores them back into their former glory. Than they rent it out. “That sounds easy, but it is incredibly complex as most monuments have multiple owners due to the fact that inheritances are split and all need to decide upon the selling.” They cooperate with the government office of monuments because they set the rules of what you can and cannot do to a protected monument. “We also have the task to maintain the buildings which is an ongoing process. The wind, the salt in the air and the sun that not only burns human bodies but also buildings are huge challenges. Next to that we do education, create awareness and maintain public relations about our monuments.” The office of the Monument Fund is actually located in a monument itself.



The building is beautiful and has a tropical style. “This house goes back to the 1920's when it was built as a vacation house by Aruban entrepreneur Croes. He and his family came here to the outdoors as in those times there was only cunucu (countryside) here. They had big parties and enjoyed leisure time with family and friends.” Richer Arubans at that time looked outwards for architecture inspiration as that was considered chic, Witsenburg explains. Either to the US (art deco style like the water tower in San Nicolas), Holland (Dutch colonial style) or Colombia/Venezuela. “This house is inspired by a villa around Cartagena, Colombia. The ideas mostly came from the wives”, she says laughing.

Sustainable driven

Sustainability is a big thing to the Monument Fund Aruba. Witsenburg: “Obviously to restore old buildings and not destroy them to build new ones is already sustainable in itself. Than we have the technical sustainability

as in using the right materials and techniques but also the social sustainability. That includes looking at the non-tangible part of heritage: the stories to be told, the music to be played, the dinners that were cooked in the places we try to restore. That keeps it alive. Most of our monuments are meant to be lived in so we would like to reintroduce the joy of living in a monument. We work together with private companies to look into that.” In their office they installed solar panels, use LED lightning and recently implemented an electrical charging point for electric vehicles. □

The Monument Fund Aruba is open every day from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. You are more than welcome to ask for information, guiding and help. For more information check out their Facebook page stichting monumenten fonds aruba and the website <http://www.monumentenfondsaruba.com>.



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 43 Tenant's

1 Team fee

5 Bath bars

10 Dove calls **DOWN**

11 Wild 1 Low

cards, boat

some- 2 Hawk-

times eye's

12 Night fliers home

13 Scope 3 Pinhead

14 Slosly 4 Gist

sleepers 5 Perennial

16 Better 6 Surpass

than battlers

expected 7 Casino

20 Brawl card

23 Green of 8 Stock

"Casino holder

Royale" 9 Retired

24 Ran easily plane

25 Bowling 11 Red-ink

challenge items

27 Band 15 Map line

blaster

28 Relaxed

29 Tongue part

32 Risky investing

move

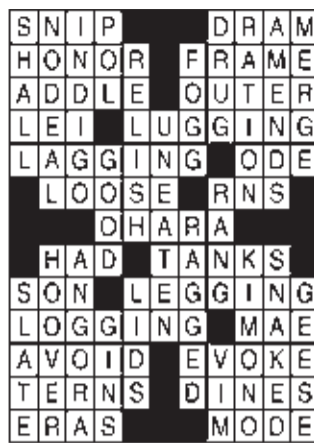
36 Showed, informally

39 Orpheus played one

40 Right away

41 Harrow rival

42 "Oleanna" playwright



Yesterday's answer

17 Composer 30 Steak

Bartók choice

18 Rara — 31 Put in

office

19 Postmark 33 Memory

part unit

20 Level 34 Pressing

need

21 Capital 35 Car scar

of Italia

22 Phone 36 Block

downloads

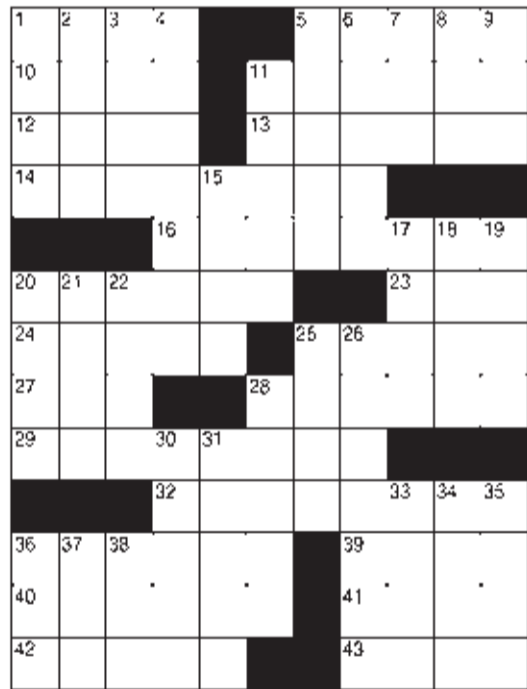
25 Astonish 37 H look-

alike

26 Vendor 38 May

honor

28 Stomach



3-7

A XYDI, B A X R
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

OTMD TB ZYAPVG UAG MQXGV YZC
UAUO DB, GEX GVTZPB BGYZC
OTWD BGXZD: WTZCZDBB TZ
YZXGVDQ'B GQXA UO DB:
LXAQYPD TZ XAQ XEZ. — YCYK
OTZC BYF PXQCXZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE REGRET OF MY LIFE IS THAT I HAVE NOT SAID "I LOVE YOU" OFTEN ENOUGH. — YOKO ONO

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Millennial Money: 5 financial mistakes to avoid when you are self-employed

By **ELIZABETH AYOOLA** of **NerdWallet**

When you become self-employed, you join millions of other business owners hoping to materialize their dreams. However, navigating the murky waters of self-employment can be challenging, especially during the early stages.

While there are no guarantees in business, there are some strategies that could increase your chances of success, especially financially. Here are a few mistakes to avoid as a self-employed person.

1. NOT DELEGATING OR PRIORITIZING

Self-employed people often act as their own stunt doubles in their business during the incipient stages because of budget constraints. However, trying to do it all on your own may be a mistake, says Ronne Brown, owner of Girl CEO and Herlistic in Washington, D.C. "We have to understand that we go fast by ourselves, but we go far as a team," she says. For people who feel they can't afford to delegate, Brown says to keep your expenses low until you can afford to do so.

If you do decide to delegate, it's key to spend your dollars in ways that help



This May 18, 2021, photo shows a woman typing on a laptop on a train in New Jersey.

Associated Press

your business grow. To do this, people should consider focusing on the business operations and systems versus just aesthetics, Brown says. Doing this effectively often requires prioritization. "In the beginning, people are always focused on the look. But that's not what truly creates the income in business," she says.

Brown suggests prioritizing bookkeepers and accountants, building automations or hiring someone to generate leads. Also, keep in mind that you can usually

deduct the cost of contracted labor from your business taxes.

2. NOT SAVING FOR RETIREMENT

Saving for retirement as an entrepreneur can easily fall to the bottom of your priority list. This is a common mistake self-employed people make, says Preston Cherry, a certified financial planner in Green Bay, Wisconsin. While it can be smart to reinvest income you generate into your business, it may be equally important to build an emer-

gency fund with three to six months' worth of expenses and invest in your retirement savings.

Cherry says self-employed people have multiple retirement savings accounts to choose from, including an IRA or a solo 401(k).

"Not only are you as a business owner saving for your retirement, you are also getting to deduct the contributions (for) tax planning as well," Cherry says.

Contributions made to traditional solo 401(k)s and traditional SIMPLE IRAs can

provide tax advantages like lowering your taxable income and enabling your investments to grow tax-deferred. That means your tax bill is deferred until you withdraw the money in retirement.

SEP IRAs are designed for self-employed people or small businesses with few or no employees and have similar characteristics.

3. SPENDING MONEY ON COURSES YOU DON'T TAKE

As a new entrepreneur, you may want to amp up your knowledge to make your business more profitable. That could mean spending money on courses or training, which can sometimes cost a pretty penny. While investing in yourself can be worthwhile, you may not get a return on your investment if you don't take the courses and apply the knowledge. "Make sure that you are fully committed and that you are dedicated to actually doing the work and sitting down and making time before you invest in any course or class," says Brown. "You can't have excuses. People buy stuff with an excuse in mind." Brown also recommends doing your homework before investing in a course, especially on social media. □

Delta Airlines is hiking checked-baggage fees 17% following similar moves by United and American



A Delta Airlines aircraft taxi's, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By the Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In case you needed yet another incentive to cram all your travel items into a carry-on, Delta Airlines just boosted the cost of your first checked bag by 17%. The increase adds \$5 to the previous, and not-exactly-insignificant, \$30 fee for domestic flights.

Delta is the third major U.S. carrier to hike bag fees in the past several weeks. Its move follows similar increases that American Airlines and United Airlines announced in February, three days apart; those high fees

themselves followed fee hikes by smaller carriers Alaska Airlines and JetBlue Airways. Major U.S. carriers often copy one another's pricing changes, a move that behavior analysts sometimes refer to as herd instinct.

Delta said Tuesday that the first bag checked on a domestic flight will now incur a \$35 fee. The charge for a second bag rose from \$40 to \$45.

Delta last raised bag fees for domestic flights in 2018. The airline said the increase will help it keep up with unspecified rising industry

costs. Customers with status perks can still check their first bag for free; those with first class tickets can check two free bags.

Bag fees have become a dependable source of revenue for airlines since American introduced them in 2008, when jet fuel prices were surging.

In 2022, the last full year for which statistics are available, U.S. airlines took in \$6.8 billion in checked-bag fees, led by American at \$1.4 billion and United at \$1.1 billion. Delta was in third place with \$979.4 million. □

Dartmouth men's basketball vote to unionize seen as overdue milestone to college athlete advocates

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Sports Writer

For those who have led unsuccessful labor movements involving NCAA athletes, the vote by Dartmouth men's basketball players to unionize felt momentous even if they are still a long way from forming the first union in college sports.

In a 13-2 vote in a building on the campus in Hanover, New Hampshire, and under supervision of the National Labor Relations Board, players elected to join the Service Employees International Union Local 560 on Tuesday.

"This is definitely a milestone that has been reached. One that we believe should have been reached long ago," said Ramogi Huma, a longtime advocate for college athletes who helped organize a movement to unionize Northwestern football players a decade ago. As with Dartmouth basketball, a regional ruling by the NLRB cleared the way for a vote by the Northwestern football team to unionize. However, the votes were impounded and never revealed after the full board in 2015 dismissed the argument that the players were employees of the private Big Ten school.

Rules have changed since, allowing the result of the Dartmouth players' vote to be made public while the school appeals.



A Dartmouth Athletics banner hangs outside Alumni Gymnasium on the Dartmouth University campus in Hanover, N.H., Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

"In issuing her decision, the Regional Director made an unprecedented, unwarranted, and unsupported departure from every applicable Supreme Court, federal court and Board precedent and created a new definition of 'employee' in a manner that not only exceeded her authority but promises to have significant labor and public policy implications," the school wrote in its request for a ruling by the full NLRB board.

The case could also end up in federal court.

"I think this is years away from being settled, but it's going in the right direc-

tion," said Huma, a former UCLA football player and executive director of the National College Players Association.

Huma has had no involvement with the Dartmouth basketball players. His group has filed a separate complaint with the NLRB against Southern California, asking that the school's football and basketball players be deemed employees.

"The case that we have at USC is stronger because the athletes there get full scholarships. So the fact that athletes at Dartmouth that don't get scholarships were deemed to be em-

ployees, I think it provides strength to our arguments at USC," Huma said.

The NLRB only has jurisdiction over private employers. Dartmouth and USC are private schools, like Northwestern.

The Dartmouth and USC cases could impact the many public schools in the NCAA, including those that compete at the highest levels of college sports such as Michigan, Alabama, Ohio State, Texas and North Carolina.

The complaint against USC is asking the NLRB to deem those athletes employees of their school, the Pac-12 Conference and the

NCAA. "The private athletic conference would be the jurisdictional hook in a joint employer relationship," said Marc Edelman, a law professor at Baruch College in New York.

Jason Stahl is the founder and executive director of the College Football Players Association, a group that has also tried to lead organization movements. The former professor at the University of Minnesota made a presentation to Penn State football players in the summer of 2022 he hoped would lead to an association that would eventually negotiate with the Big Ten Conference over things such as working conditions, health care and maybe even compensation.

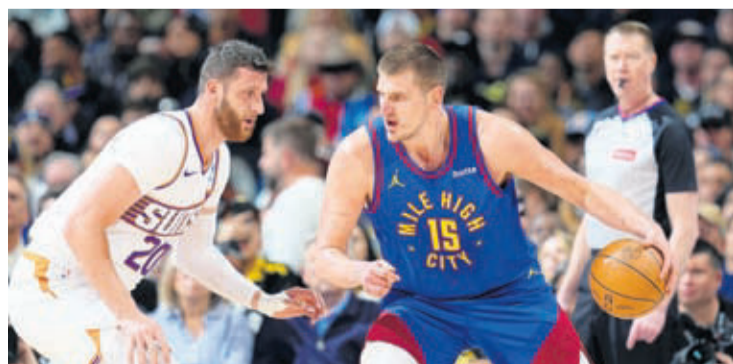
Those efforts fizzled out. Stahl said what is most encouraging about the Dartmouth vote is it appears to have been 100% player-led.

"First time we've seen this, we'll see if it produces a wave," Stahl said. "If Dartmouth basketball players are employees, pretty much all college athletes seem like they're employees and that could produce some really seismic ramifications not just for college athletics, but also for higher education writ large."

Huma noted unionizing right now might not be best for college athletes. □

Associated Press

Celtics and Nuggets to play in Abu Dhabi in October in two NBA preseason games



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, right, is defended by Phoenix Suns center Jusuf Nurkic during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

The Boston Celtics and Denver Nuggets will play in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Oct. 4 and 6 in preseason games ahead of next season, the NBA announced Wednesday.

"We're excited to bring two of the best teams in the NBA to Abu Dhabi in the Celtics and the Nuggets," NBA Deputy Commissioner and COO Mark Tatum said in a

statement. "There is incredible momentum around basketball in the UAE and across the Middle East, and we believe these games as well as our year-round grassroots development and fan engagement efforts will be a catalyst for the continued growth of the game in the region." The NBA said the two games will reach people in more than 200 countries

and territories on television, digital media and social media. They are part of a multiyear collaboration between the NBA and Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism.

The Celtics have won 17 NBA titles and have the NBA's best record this season. The Nuggets, who feature two-time league MVP Nikola Jokic, won the championship last year. □

Stanley Cup contenders make moves ahead of the NHL trade deadline

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

Stanley Cup contenders aren't waiting until the NHL trade deadline day to shore up depth for what they hope is a long playoff run.

The league-leading Florida Panthers got deeper on the wing on Wednesday by acquiring Vladimir Tarasenko from Ottawa, Connor McDavid's Edmonton Oilers added a pair of centers in Adam Henrique and Sam Carrick from Anaheim and the Colorado Avalanche loaded up by getting defenseman Sean Walker from Philadelphia and center Casey Mittelstadt from Buffalo in separate trades.

Colorado traded a top-10 protected 2025 first-round pick and center Ryan Jo-



Philadelphia Flyers' Nick Seeler, left, and Ottawa Senators' Vladimir Tarasenko collide during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Saturday, March 2, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

hansen to Philadelphia for Walker and a fifth-rounder in 2026 and got Mittelstadt

in a one-for-one trade that sent defenseman Bowen Byram to the Sabres.

The Panthers sent a fourth-round pick in this year's draft to Ottawa for Tarasen-

ko, and the fourth-rounder would upgrade to a 2026 third-rounder if Florida wins the Stanley Cup this season.

Ottawa also is getting a third-round pick from Florida in 2025, while the Senators are retaining half of Tarasenko's salary.

"Vladimir is a highly skilled and experienced scoring winger who provides our club with another dynamic offensive option as we embark on the remainder of our season," Panthers general manager Bill Zito said. "We are excited for him to join our team, and to compete for the Stanley Cup once again."

Edmonton's deal was far more complicated, with the Oilers sending their first-rounder this year and a conditional fifth-round pick in 2025 to Anaheim and a 2026 fourth-rounder to Tampa Bay for retaining a quarter of Henrique's salary.

The '25 pick becomes a fourth if the Oilers win the Cup, which stands better odds now after getting Henrique and Carrick.

"For us, this was a situation driven by contract status, and it was our desire to add another high draft pick to our core going forward."

After word of the trades emerged, Florida became the Cup favorite on FanDuel Sportsbook, followed by Edmonton and Carolina. The moves came less than 24 hours after the defending champion Vegas Golden Knights got the ball rolling by trading with Washington for 20-goal scorer Anthony Mantha. More moves are expected before 3 p.m. EST Friday deadline.

After taking on Johansen's contract, which has \$4 million annually left on it through next season, the Flyers immediately put him on waivers. GM Danny Briere, whose team is in third place in the Metropolitan Division and an unexpected playoff contender, said "everything's on the table" for Philadelphia at the trade deadline as he looks to build for the future. □

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